

c.) Amendments to the claims.

Please cancel claims 41-60 and 65-69 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend claim 61 as follows:

Claim 1. (previously amended) A granule comprising a plurality of layers with a core having at least one inner layer proximate to the core and at least one outer layer distal to the core, wherein at least one layer has a composition that is different from at least one other layer and said granule contains biosolid material.

Claim 2. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein the core comprises a biosolid material.

Claim 3. (previously amended) The granule of claim 2 wherein the biosolid material comprises class A biosolids.

Claim 4. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein one or more of the plurality of layers comprise non-biosolid materials.

Claim 5. (original) The granule of claim 4 wherein the non-biosolid materials are selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulfate, azo-group based polymers, calcium-linked polymer, cationic-linked polymers, diammonium phosphate, dried organic materials, dried inorganic materials, fertilizers, lignins, magnesium-linked polymers, natural polymers, nutrient fertilizers, plant polysaccharides, synthetic polymers, and combinations thereof.

Claim 6. (original) The granule of claim 1 which has a diameter of less than about 10 mm.

Claim 7. (original) The granule of claim 1 which contains less than ten percent water.

Claim 8. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein one or more layers of said granule, but not all, have a higher pH than the core or one or more other layers of said granule.

Claim 9. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein one or more layers, but not all, have a higher moisture level than said core or one or more other layers of said granule.

Claim 10. (previously amended) The granule of claim 1 wherein one or more layers, but not all, have a higher pH than the core or one or more other layers of said granule.

Claim 11. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein one or more layers, but not all, have a higher degree of hardness than said core or one or more other layers of said granule.

Claim 12. (original) The granule of claim 1 wherein the at least one outer layer comprises a non-biosolid- that reduces the rate of emission of odorants associated with said granule.

Claim 13. (previously amended) The granule of claim 1 further comprising a coating that at least partially encapsulates said granule.

Claim 14. (original) The granule of claim 13 wherein the coating comprises a material selected from the consisting of argose, biodegradable polymers, ethylene, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, propylene copolymer, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinylidene chloride-vinyl chloride copolymer, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15. (original) The granule of claim 1 further comprising one or more micronutrients.

Claim 16. (original) The granule of claim 15 wherein the micronutrients are located in the core, in one or more of the plurality of layers, or both.

Claim 17. (original) The granule of claim 15 wherein the micronutrients are selected from the group consisting of ammonia, boron, cobalt, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, zinc, and any salts thereof, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18. (original) The granule of claim 16 wherein the salts are selected from the group consisting of as ammonium molybdate, boric acid, calcium nitrate, chelated complex of copper, cobalt chloride hexahydrate, copper nitrate, copper sulfate, disodium dihydro molybdate, ferrous nitrate, ferrous sulfate, magnesium nitrate, magnesium sulfate, manganese nitrate, manganese

sulfate, nickel chloride hexahydrate, potassium chloride, sodium borate, sodium molybdate, zinc nitrate, zinc sulfate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 19. (original) The granule of claim 15 wherein the zinc is present in a concentration greater than about 2,000 ppm.

Claim 20. (original) The granule of claim 15 further comprising a coating such that said micronutrients are released from said granule in a timed release fashion.

Claim 21. (original) The granule of claim 1 further comprising microorganisms.

Claim 22. (original) The granule of claim 21 wherein the microorganisms are capable of metabolizing a toxic chemical or compound, replenishing depleted soil microflora, enhancing the transfer of nutrients to a target crop, or a combination thereof.

Claim 23. (original) A bioremediation method comprising contacting a plurality of biosolid-containing granules of claim 1 to an area in need thereof.

Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the area is a body of land or water.

Claim 25. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the biosolid-containing granules further contain microorganisms, micronutrients or both.

Claim 26. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the microorganisms metabolize contaminants present in said area.

Claim 27. (original) The granule of claim 1, further comprising a toxin.

Claim 28. (original) A method for fertilizing an area comprising contacting a plurality of biosolid-containing granules of claim 1 to an area in need thereof.

Claim 29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the area is a body of land or water.

Claim 30. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the biosolid-containing granules comprises cationic polymer and zinc.

Claim 31. (original) A method for treating an area with a toxic compound comprising contacting said area with a plurality of biosolid-containing granules of claim 1 that further contains said toxic compound.

Claim 32. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the toxic compound is selected from the group consisting of herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, and combinations thereof.

Claim 33. (original) A method for the delayed release of a desired substance to an area comprising contacting a plurality of biosolid-containing granule of claim 1 to said area wherein one or more outer layers of said granules comprise a heat-sensitive polymer that delays release of said desired substance from the granule until exposed to a certain temperature.

Claim 34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the desired substance is selected from the group consisting of fertilizers, herbicides, micronutrients, pesticides, and combinations thereof.

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the temperature is greater than 15°C.

Claim 36. (original) A method for the delayed release of a desired substance to an area comprising contacting a plurality of biosolid-containing granule of claim 1 to said area wherein one or more outer layers of said granules comprise a water-sensitive polymer that delays release of said desired substance from the granule until exposed to water.

Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 36 wherein the water content exceeds 30%.

Claim 38. (previously amended) A method of manufacturing a biosolid-containing granule comprising:

generating a core particle, wherein core particle has a composition that comprises of biosolid material; and

applying a layer of material to said core particle, wherein said layer has a composition that is different from said composition of said core particle.

Claim 39. (previously amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the core particle is generated by a process selected from the group consisting of a hydraulic fracturing, freeze wall placement, jet grouting, rotary hollow stem auger/trimmie placement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 40. (original) The method of claim 38 wherein the layer is formed by a process selected from the group consisting of a cross-pipe reaction process, a spouting fluidized bed drying process, and combinations thereof.

Claims 41- 60 (currently canceled).

Claim 61. (currently amended) A bioremediation method comprising contacting a plurality of biosolid-containing granules ~~of claim 41~~ to an area in need thereof, wherein each granule comprises at least one layer with a core wherein said each granule contains biosolid material.

Claim 62. (original) The method of claim 61 wherein the area is a body of land or water.

Claim 63. (original) The method of claim 61 wherein the biosolid-containing granules further contain microorganisms, micronutrients or both.

Claim 64. (original) The method of claim 63 wherein the microorganisms metabolize contaminants present in said area.

Claims 65-69 (currently canceled).